

REMARKS

This response is offered in reply to the office action of August 30, 2005.

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the allowance of claims 8, 9, 15, 19, and 21 in paragraph 5 of the office action. Applicants also appreciate the indicated allowability of the subject matter of claims 6, 12, 14, and 25 in the office action in paragraph 6 of the office action.

Claims 6 and 12 have been rewritten in independent form that is believed to render claims 6 and 12 allowable. Claim 14 has been included in new claim 26 to render claim 26 allowable. Claim 25 has been incorporated in amended claim 24 to render claim 24 allowable.

In paragraph 1 of the office action, claim 1 is objected to for informalities. Applicants have amended claim 1 in a manner believed to overcome the objection.

Reconsideration of the objection is requested.

In paragraph 4 of the office action, claims 1-3, 7, 10, 11, 13, and 22-24 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) in view of the cited Bertels US Patent 3,202,793.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 10, and 22 to recite, in combination with other features set forth, that the metal sheet is spot welded to a major side of the metal bridging patch.

The cited '793 patent does not disclose the features of amended claims 1, 10, and 22. Instead, Figure 1 of the '793 patent merely discloses welding a rolled section of steel angle bar 9 to partially zinc coated steel strip 10 which is welded to tube 8. Figures 3 and 4 of the cited '793 patent show a steel plate 16 welded to a steel strip which has the same thickness as the steel plate 16 and which is welded to an aluminum plate 21.

Applicants note that the '793 patent nowhere discloses a bridging patch drawn arc welded to a metal tube or the method thereof as set forth in claims 3 and 23.

Applicants have amended claim 24 to recite a welded sheet-to-tube structure comprising a metal sheet having a major side spot welded to multiple metal bridging patches that are welded to an exterior surface of a metal tube.

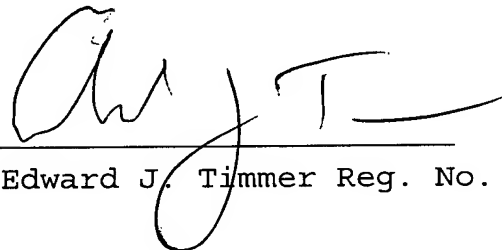
The cited '793 patent does not disclose the features of amended claim 25 as acknowledged by the examiner.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-3, 7, 10, 11, 13 and 22-24 and allowance of these claims is requested.

Applicants have added new claim 26, which includes the recitation of claim 14 and which is believed to be allowable also. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee for new claims 26 to my deposit account No.20-1124.

Allowance of the pending claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. J. Timmer', is written over a horizontal line.

Edward J. Timmer Reg. No. 27402

Enclosures: Postal Card

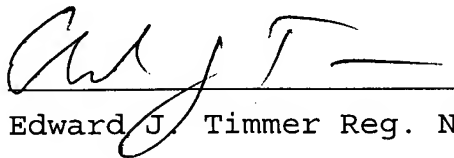
USSN 10/662,841



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Edward J. Timmer Reg. No. 27402